

Subject: "Kurdistan in America" - The latest podcast from the KRG US Representation

From: Kurdistan Regional Government - USA <us@gov.krd>

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**Kurdistan Regional Government
Representation in the United States
Washington D.C.**

Welcome to the "Kurdistan in America" Podcast



Photo Credit: Kurdistan 24

Kurdistan in America

Season 2 Episode 8 - Interview with Colonel David Williams, the former Director of the Counter-ISIS Coalition's Kurdistan Coordination Center

AUGUST 25, 2021 KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES SEASON 2 EPISODE 8



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This month, the Kurdistan in America podcast is honored to have Colonel David Williams as its guest. Colonel Williams is the former Director of the Counter-ISIS Coalition's Kurdistan Coordination Center, part of the Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve. He was stationed in Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan Region, for one year.

He shares with us his experience working alongside the Kurdish security forces and his involvement in the Peshmerga unification efforts, including his views of and encounters with the people of Kurdistan while serving as the Director for the Counter-ISIS Coalition's KCC. He also sheds light on the Coalition's efforts for assisting the establishment of joint brigades of Peshmerga forces and the Iraqi army in filling the security gaps in the disputed areas to fight ISIS.

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Kurdistan in America

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**Kurdistan Regional Government
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Welcome to our August 2021 Newsletter



He said, 'What will happen at the end of this year is an end to any combat role for United States' forces, and that is the only thing that is ending. It is in the best interest of the United States and Iraq to continue our strategic partnership.'

When the US Ambassador to Iraq was asked by Kurdish journalists in early August if the US was about to withdraw from Iraq after Afghanistan, Ambassador Matthew Tueller said that President Joe Biden 'understands the importance of Iraq, the importance of the US to Iraq, the importance of Iraq in the region.'

Macron in Erbil

There were two historic events in the past few days in Baghdad and Erbil, underscoring Iraq and Kurdistan's important role. On August 29, the Kurdistan Region welcomed French President Emmanuel Macron, who met with several high officials, including the Kurdistan Region's President, the KRG Prime Minister, his Deputy and the Speaker of Parliament, as well as President Masoud Barzani.

Like many Americans, the people of Kurdistan have been watching events in Afghanistan with great concern and sympathy. While there is a heated debate on the implementation of the decision to withdraw from Afghanistan, we must remember the families of the American soldiers, Afghans and others who were killed in the ISIS-Khorasan terrorist attack in Kabul last week. We mourn the loss of innocent lives and wish the best to those who were injured.

The US withdrawal from Afghanistan has triggered a discussion on whether Washington will do the same in Iraq and if it did, would the same situation ensue. There are parallels between Iraq and Afghanistan, but also significant differences between the two countries. In Washington, there is bipartisan support for the US and Coalition to continue to support Iraqi security forces and the

The visit was surrounded by a festive atmosphere, celebrating the friendship between France and Kurdistan, dating back to the 1980s and to Operation Provide Comfort in 1991. France has been a key ally to Kurdistan over the years and remains a strong partner today in the fight against ISIS, in the same way as Britain and the United States.

peshmerga in the fight against ISIS. There is also an understanding that Iraq's security is key to the stability of the Middle East.

President Masoud Barzani issued a statement, reassuring the people of Kurdistan that there are many differences between Kurdistan and Afghanistan and their forces. Others pointed out that the US Iraq Strategic Dialogue took place only last month and the two sides agreed to US troops staying in Iraq in a noncombat role.

US in Iraq for 'long haul'

Yesterday, Robert Palladino, the US Consul General in Erbil, told the media, 'The United States is staying in Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region. We are on this journey with you for the long haul.'

Baghdad conference

President Macron had attended the Baghdad Conference for Cooperation and Partnership on August 28, with leaders and foreign ministers of several regional states. The conference was welcomed by President Nechirvan Barzani, as well as President Biden, who congratulated Iraq on hosting a 'ground-breaking' summit. He said, 'The United States continues to stand with our partner Iraq as we work together toward greater stability across the Middle East. We remain committed to strengthening our bilateral relationship under the Strategic Framework Agreement.'

Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman

Representative to the United States
Kurdistan Regional Government



KRG Representative briefs Senators and calls for continued support to Kurdistan

The Kurdistan Regional Government Representative in the United States, Bayan Abdul Rahman, continued her advocacy in the US Congress through several virtual

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KRG Representative meets with Congressman Paul Gosar

Representative Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman had a virtual meeting with Congressman Paul Gosar (R-AZ), member of the House Committee on Natural...

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AUGUST 25, 2021 KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES SEASON 2 EPISODE 8



Season 2 Episode 8 of the Kurdistan in America podcast: An interview with Colonel David Williams

Col. Williams is the former Director of the



KRG Envoy meets with the incoming Head of Economic Affairs at the U.S. Consul General to Kurdistan

Representative Bayan Sami Abdul

anti-ISIS Coalition's Kurdistan Coordination Center, part of the Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve.

Rahman had a warm and productive exchange in a virtual meeting with Seth Patch, the incoming head of economic

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Kurdistan President meets with US Ambassador to Iraq

Erbil, Kurdistan Region, August 10, 2021 Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani received Mr. Matthew Tueller, the United States' Ambassador to Iraq, in Erbil on Tuesday. Discussions focused on Iraq-US strategic dialogue, the agreements...

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France reaffirms support to the Kurdistan Region

Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani, accompanied by Kurdistan Region Prime Minister, Mr. Masrour Barzani, and Kurdistan Region Speaker of Parliament, Ms. Rewaz Fayege, received the President of...

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President Barzani meets with Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi

On the second day of his visit to Tehran, Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani met with Mr. Ebrahim Raisi, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on Friday. At the meeting, attended by Kurdistan Region ...

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President Barzani's message on the of Yazidi Genocide

On the 7th anniversary of the genocide against the people of Shingal and its surrounding areas, we pay tribute to our Yezidi sisters and brothers who fell victim to the heinous crimes. They will never be...

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Kurdistan President's statement on the Badinan Anfal

As we commemorate the 33d anniversary of the Badinan Genocide today, we pay tribute to the martyrs who lost their lives at the hands of the Ba'ath regime during the last stages of the Anfal Campaigns...

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PM Barzani discusses regional issues with French President

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Sunday held a joint meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani, and parliamentary speaker Rewaz Faiaq ...

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PM Masrour Barzani's message on the Yazidi Genocide

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Tuesday marked the 7th year since the genocidal attacks on the Yazidi people with a message honoring the victims of the massacre.

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Statement from PM Masrour Barzani on the Badinan Anfal

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani today issued the following statement on the anniversary of the Badinan Anfal campaign. "As we mark the 33rd anniversary of the Badinan Anfal campaign, we ...

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KRG announces 4 billion-dinar water security fund

KRG will be allocating 2.5 billion dinars in funds to combat droughts across the region and 1.5 billion dinars in emergency funds to address urgent water shortages in the Erbil province.

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A message from the KRG on the Yazidi genocide

The Kurdistan Regional Government on Tuesday released a statement commemorating the 7th anniversary of the Yazidi genocide in Shingal. Full statement from the KRG: "Today, seven years...

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DPM Talabani and Board of Education discuss new school year

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani today met with the Board of Education, the President of the Diwan of the Council of Ministers, and the Head of Department of Coordination and...

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DPM Talabani discusses KRG jobs and economic growth

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani today, at the TECHFEST event for

Innovation and Technology in Sulaymaniyah, outlined the Kurdistan Regional Government's efforts to broaden access...

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DPM Qubad Talabani meets with US delegation

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani on Wednesday met with a US delegation led by Paul Grove of the Senate Appropriations Committee Office's Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and...

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Speaker Faiq meets outgoing Head of Canada's Embassy Office

Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on 16 August met with Ms. Ashley Durec, the outgoing Head of Canada's Embassy Office in Kurdistan Region, to bid her farewell and thank her for her cooperation during her posting.

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Kurdistan Parliament's statement on the Yazidi Genocide

On August 3rd, 2014, a grim and tragic day in the history of the people of Kurdistan, ISIS terrorists launched a brutal attack on Shengal (Sinjar) district and abducted Yazidi Kurdish girls and women, and buried Yazidi men and ...

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Kurdistan in the Media



Former US Ambassador to Iraq talks to Rudaw TV

Douglas Silliman, Washington's former ambassador to Iraq, said there are no plans for American forces to fully withdraw from Iraq, dismissing comparisons with Afghanistan in an interview with Rudaw. Silliman said that the situation is different between Iraq and Afghanistan. 'Stability in Iraq creates stability in the rest of the region,' he said.

US in Iraq, Kurdistan Region for the long haul: envoy

The United States will stay in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region for the long haul

KRG bans gas flaring: Minister of Natural Resources:

The Kurdistan Regional Government has ordered oil companies operating in

and remains committed to defeating the Islamic State group (ISIS), the US...

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the Kurdistan Region to cease the environmentally harmful practice of gas...

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'Masoud Barzani is a good friend of mine' — Kurdistan is not Afghanistan!

That is what Joe Biden told this reporter at a chance encounter at a local grocery store in late 2017. Biden was no longer Vice-President...

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Iraq: Clock ticks on all-important elections, commitment to credibility needed

Briefing Council members in person for the first time in over a year, Ms. Hennis-Plasschaert, who is also the head of the Mission, also called claims that UNAMI...

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KRG Electricity Minister hails privatization effort

Kurdistan Regional Government Minister of Electricity Kamal Mohammad on Sunday predicted the privatization of the Kurdistan Region's electricity sector...

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Iraq hosts summit aimed at easing regional tensions

Iraq hosted a regional conference on Saturday aimed at easing tensions in the Middle East while emphasizing the Arab country's new role as a mediator.

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Masoud Barzani seeks to reassure Kurdistan Region following Taliban takeover of Afghanistan

Elder statesman Masoud Barzani reassured residents of the Kurdistan Region on Sunday that there is a "big difference" between Afghanistan and...

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'Our best model is Iraqi Kurdistan,' says group resisting Taliban rule in Afghanistan

An official from the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan, a group recently formed after the Taliban took control of Kabul this month, said on Monday that

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Young female entrepreneur strives to transform the medical sector in the Kurdistan Region

Twenty-five-year-old Nasreen Hassan has been working for years on a business idea that will help hospitals and medical centers in the Kurdistan Region

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Congressional outreach of KRG Representation in Washington

The Representation of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Washington has wrapped up a summer's work of engagement with Congress...

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PM Barzani asks Iraqi government to compensate victims of Badinan Anfal

On the 33rd anniversary of the last stage of the ethnic cleansing campaign known as the Badinan Anfal, Kurdistan Region Prime Minister Masrour Barzani asked...

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With investment, Kurdistan's gas sector can compete internationally: HKN

The Kurdistan Region should be able to compete with Iran and Russia for gas contracts with Turkey that will be coming up for rebids in 2026, said Matthew...

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KRG would defend PKK in talks with Turkey if group returned to Qandil: KDP spokesperson

A "full" Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) return to the Qandil Mountains as per a 1992 agreement could see the Kurdistan Region come to the defense of the...

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KRG Minister of Construction and Housing says railway project to be implemented in coming years

The Kurdistan Region Minister of Construction and Housing, Dana Abdul Karim, announced on Sunday that the regional government is determined to...

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